

Central Indiana

August 2015

Climate Summary

50th Coolest on record at Indianapolis

25th Driest on record at Indianapolis

Temperatures

August was a largely typical month for mid to late summer temperatures with one notable exception. Highs were primarily in the 80s for most of the month across central Indiana with lows ranging from the upper 50s to upper 60s. Central Indiana largely escaped the typical hot weather that often comes throughout August, with much of the area being spared of 90 degree temperatures. Indianapolis did not make it to 90 at all in August, the first such occurrence since August 2004, which incidentally was also the only year that saw no 90 degree temperatures in Indianapolis.

A cooler airmass overspread the Ohio Valley in the wake of a frontal passage for several days from the 24th through the 28th. Highs through the period fell into the lower and middle 70s across much of the region, with some areas of north central Indiana even remaining in the upper 60s on the 25th and 26th. Low temperatures fell into the upper 40s and lower 50s during the period as well. Warmer temperatures returned for the last few days of the month, acting as a prelude to the hot weather set to open up September.

10 mornings saw lows at or below 60 degrees, the most since August 2004. Additionally, the 72.9 degree monthly average temperature at Indianapolis made for the coolest August since 2004 and the second coolest August on record since 2000.

Site	August 2015 Avg Temp	August 2015 Difference from Normal	Highest Temperature	Lowest Temperature
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Indianapolis	72.9	-1.3	89 on 3	52 on 25
Lafayette(*)	70.4	-2.8	89 on 2	50 on 21
Muncie	68.8	-3.7	86 on 2	50 on 21
Terre Haute	71.7	-1.1	91 on 2	47 on 25
Bloomington	71.3	-1.7	89 on 3	50 on 25
Shelbyville	72.1	-0.3	89 on 3	52 on 21 and 25
Indy – Eagle Crk.	71.9	-2.2	87 on 2 and 3	53 on 25

At Indianapolis, there were 13 days with above normal average temperatures, 16 days with below normal average temperatures and 2 days with a normal average temperature.

August 2015 was the 50th coolest in the Indianapolis area since 1871.

(*) Lafayette temperature data missing on 8/26.

Precipitation

The wet summer of 2015 turned dry in many areas during August. Only portions of northwest, southwest and eastern Indiana received above normal rainfall. Monthly totals ranged from less than an inch in west central and central Indiana to almost 9 inches in portions of Porter County in northwest Indiana. Much of the state received between 1.5 and 4 inches during the month.

The drier weather pattern that began on July 27th continued through August 13th in much of the state. During this time sporadic daily rainfall of one-half to over an inch fell from the 2nd through the 6th and the 9th through the 10th. Rainfall during the first 2 weeks of August varied from near 0.10 inches in west central and central Indiana to over 3.5 inches in east central Indiana.

The most significant rainfall of the month occurred from late on the 14th through the 19th. Rains reminiscent of June and July returned to northwest Indiana early on the 18th when portions of Porter County measured in excess of 6 inches. Several areas in the state received rainfall greater than 2 inches on the 16th, 17th and 19th. For this 6-day rainy period, amounts ranged from slightly over 0.10 inches in central Indiana to nearly 7 inches in northwest Indiana.

The driest portion of August was the last 12 days. Rain fell only in portions of northern and east central Indiana on the 23rd and in scattered locations state-wide from the 29th through the 31st. Rainfall for this period ranged from little to none in numerous areas of central and southern Indiana to nearly 3 inches in isolated areas.

Site	August 2015 Precipitation	August 2015 Difference from Normal	Wettest Day	Longest Dry Stretch

Indianapolis	1.55	-1.58	0.61 on 19	5 days 24-28
Lafayette	0.74	-2.72	0.35 on 15	5 days 24-28
Muncie	2.13	-1.17	0.82 on 10	5 days 24-28
Terre Haute	0.65	-2.96	0.48 on 6	8 days 24-31
Bloomington	4.17	+0.65	2.12 on 16	8 days 21-28
Shelbyville	1.17	-2.22	0.68 on 6	5 days 24-28
Indy – Eagle Crk.	1.13	-2.06	0.38 on 6	8 days 24-31

August 2015 was the 25th driest in the Indianapolis area since weather records began in 1871.

Severe Weather

Very little severe weather occurred across central Indiana in August. Scattered severe storms on the afternoon of the 3rd produced large hail across portions of Delaware and Randolph Counties. Golf ball size hail occurred southeast of Muncie.

For information on severe weather in other areas during August, visit the Storm Prediction Center “Severe Weather Event Summaries” website at <http://www.spc.noaa.gov/climo/online/>.

Miscellaneous

The maximum wind gust at Indianapolis International Airport was 30 mph out of the north on the 3rd, and out of the west on the 20th. Fog or haze was reported at Indianapolis on 13 days during the month. Thunder was reported on just 4 days in August.

September 2015 Outlook

The official outlook for September 2015 from the Climate Prediction Center indicates a greater chance of above normal temperatures for central Indiana. At Indianapolis, the average temperature for the month is 66.9 degrees. The outlook also calls for a greater chance for near to slightly above normal precipitation for the month. The average precipitation for September at Indianapolis is 3.12”.

Data prepared by the Indianapolis Forecast Office.